

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING  
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 15 OCTOBER 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1177-0-02 (ACCNO 1059) Status: (8) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED  
Name: RICKEL, DAVID J (IO) Date Status assigned: 23 May 1979

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	DATA
Service	AIR FORCE	Sex	MALE	Blood type	O +
Grade	O3	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	FAIR
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	BROWN	Weapon	.38 CAL PISTOL
Serial No		Height	70 in / 1.78 mtrs	Weapon No	K599029
Birth date	5 Oct 1942	Weight	170 lb / 77.0 kg	Duty pos	ACFT CMDR
Home State	FLORIDA	Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: CRASH SITE  
UTM: 48QXE361472  
Lat/Long: 173631N / 1061659E  
Country: NORTH VIETNAM  
Military Region: 4  
Mission Province: QUANG BINH  
(formerly):  
Mission District: BO TRACH  
Mission Date: 16 May 1968 2215L  
Mission Category: 2  
Local Analysis: Near populated area.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Jul 93, Mar 92, Nov 86  
Investigations: Apr 93, Aug 93  
Surveys: Aug 93  
Additional Information Obtained: Apr 90  
Vessey Case: NO  
Case type: CRASH SITE  
Survivability: (4) Probably in the aircraft at the time of the crash

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: F4D	Serial: 7630
Crash Type: None	Engine Type: J7915
Call Sign: VESPA 02	1 Serial: 439380
Year: 66	2 Serial: 439381

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

# = Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.  
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===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1177-0-01 (ACCNO 0691) Status: (8) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED  
Name: NAME Date Status assigned: 8 May 1978

Nationality	
Service	DATA
Grade	
SSAN	
Serial No	
Birth date	
Home State	
Religion	
PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

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CASE: 1177

=== CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ===

26 August 1975

ON 16 MAY 1968 CAPT DAVID J. RICKEL, AIRCRAFT COMMANDER, AND ~~NAME~~ WERE FLYING THE NUMBER TWO AIRCRAFT, (#66-7630), IN A FLIGHT OF TWO F4D'S ON A NIGHT ARMED RECONNAISSANCE MISSION IN THE VICINITY OF XUAN SON, NORTH VIETNAM. IN THE TARGET AREA THE FLIGHT LEADER MADE A PASS ON THE TARGET WITH THE NUMBER TWO AIRCRAFT FOLLOWING. AS THE FLIGHT LEADER MADE A RIGHT TURN OFF THEIR PASS, THEY THOUGHT THEY SAW GROUND FIRE. SECONDS LATER THE FLIGHT LEADER SAW A BRIGHT FLASH ON A RIDGE, FOLLOWED BY A LARGE EXPLOSION ON THE SIDE OF A LARGE KARST.

THE NUMBER TWO AIRCRAFT HAD LAST BEEN SEEN IN THAT AREA. THE FLIGHT LEADER ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT CAPT RICKEL AND ~~NAME~~ BY RADIO WITHOUT SUCCESS. NO BEEPER SIGNALS WERE HEARD AND NO PARACHUTES WERE SEEN. THE AREA WAS SEARCHED ELECTRONICALLY AND VISUALLY UNDER FLARES. WHAT APPEARED TO BE BURNING WRECKAGE WAS SIGHTED IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES XE 361 472. BECAUSE OF NO CONTACT WITH THE DOWNED CREWMEN, NO ORGANIZED SEARCH EFFORTS WERE INITIATED. (REF 1, 2 & 3)

DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO A FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. CAPT RICKEL AND ~~NAME~~ ARE CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

=== REFERENCES ===

26 August 1975

REFERENCES: <1> MSG , 8CSG UBON, 161845Z MAY 68. <2> MAS , 7AF, TSN: 170105Z MAY 68. <3> RPT 8CSG. AF FORM 484 W/STATEMENTS, 22 MAY 68. <4> 010535Z JUN 93 CJTFFA DET ONE. <5> 310812Z MAY 91 CDR JCRC BARBERS PT HI. <6> 240457Z SEP 93 CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH.

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

28 February 1986

A NEGOTIATION FOLDER ON ~~NAME~~ AND DAVID J. RICKEL WAS PASSED DURING THE 29 OCT - 1 NOV JCRC/VNOSMIA TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

CASE: 1177

2 April 1992

CASE NARRATIVE PASSED TO THE VIETNAMESE DURING THE 30 MARCH 1992 TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

20 August 1993

CASE NARRATIVE WAS PASSED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT DURING THE 28 JUL 1993 POW/MIA TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

=== ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS ===

26 August 1975

ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS: ~~NAME~~ 1177-0-01, AND DAVID J. RICKEL 1177-0-02.

=== MAJOR COORDINATE CHANGE ===

8 September 1975

CHANGE UTM TO XE361 472 BASED ON 8 CSG UBON AB THAI MSG 161845Z MAY 68 AND 7AF TSN RVN MSG 170105Z MAY 68.

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

9 September 1993

A LE NINH DISTRICT DOCUMENT WAS SHOWN TO A JOINT TEAM DURING THE 10TH JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY. AN ENTRY LISTS THE SHOOTDOWN OF AN F-105 BY THE THANH THUY VILLAGE GUERRILLA MILITIA ON 16 MAY 68. THIS ENTRY POSSIBLY CORRELATES TO CASE 1177, WHICH INVOLVES THE LOSS OF AN F-4D ON 16 MAY 68 IN BO TRACH DISTRICT. JCRC FILES INDICATE THERE WERE NO OTHER FIXED WING AIRCRAFT LOSSES ON THIS DATE. (REF 5)

4 October 1993

ON 18 MAY 93, IE1 TRAVELED TO PHUC TRACE VILLAGE, BO TRACE DISTRICT TO INTERVIEW TWO WITNESSES WITH INFORMATION BELIEVED TO BE RELATED TO CASE 1177. THE WITNESSES PROVIDED CORROBORATING ACCOUNTS OF THE 1968 SHOOT DOWN OF AN F4 AIRCRAFT IN WHICH BOTH CREWMEN WERE CAPTURED. ONE CREWMAN WAS TAKEN TO HANOI. THE OTHER CREWMAN DIED OF WOUNDS RECEIVED WHEN EJECTING FROM THE AIRCRAFT AND WAS BURIED IN THE LOCAL AREA. THE REMAINS OF THIS CREWMAN WERE LATER EXHUMED BY A VIETNAMESE UNILATERAL RECOVERY TEAM. CLOSE EXAMINATION OF THE CRASH SITE PRODUCED AIRCRAFT DEBRIS, BUT NO EVIDENCE OF PERSONAL EFFECTS OR HUMAN REMAINS. BASED ON THE WITNESS TESTIMONY AND CRASH LOCATION, THIS INCIDENT WAS CORRELATED TO ANOTHER

CASE: 1177

CASE, A RESOLVED INCIDENT. (REF 4)

5 October 1993

ON 21 AUG 93, IE1 TRAVELLED TO SON TRACH VILLAGE, BO TRACH DISTRICT, QUANG BINH PROVINCE TO INVESTIGATE CASE 1177. THE TEAM INTERVIEWED FOUR WITNESSES, ONLY ONE OF WHOM PROVIDED INFORMATION PROBABLY RELATED TO THIS CASE. THE WITNESS TOLD OF A CRASH SITE HE DISCOVERED IN 1977-78. HE COULD NOT FURNISH INFORMATION RELATED TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS OR FATE OF THE AIRCREW. THE WITNESS LED THE TEAM TO THE SITE. VARIOUS PIECES OF MATERIAL AND METAL FRAGMENTS WERE DISCOVERED AT THE SITE. NO REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE DISCOVERED. DUE TO TEAM SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVING THE HOSTILE KARST ENVIRONMENT, A SURVEY OF THE LAST KNOWN INCIDENT LOCATION WAS NOT CONDUCTED. ON 1 SEP 93, IE1 CONDUCTED AN AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE INCIDENT LOCATION HELD IN U.S. RECORDS FOR THIS CASE WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. (REF 6)

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 7 FEBRUARY 1994

BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REFNO: 1177-0-02 (ACCNO 1059)  
Name: RICKEL, DAVID J (IO)

Status: (8) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED  
Date Status assigned: 23 May 1979

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	DATA
Service	AIR FORCE	Sex	MALE	Blood type	O +
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Military Region: 4  
Mission Province: QUANG BINH  
(formerly):  
Mission District: BO TRACH  
Mission Date: 16 May 1968 2215L  
Mission Category: 2  
Local Analysis: Near populated area.

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Case type: CRASH SITE  
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Vehicle Type: F4D	Serial: 7630
Crash Type: None	Engine Type: J7915
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031122Z FEB 94.

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7 February 1994

DURING THE 25TH JFA, A JOINT TEAM SURVEYED A CRASH SITE AT GRID XE35684581. THE ITEMS RECOVERED COULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED OR ASSOCIATED TO A SPECIFIC AIRCRAFT TYPE. (REF 7)



JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING  
CAMP H. M. SMITH, HAWAII 96861-5025

CASE 1177-

CASE 1177- *data*

NARRATIVE

ON 16 MAY 1968, FIRST LIEUTENANT *Nick*  
AND CAPTAIN DAVID J. RICKEL WERE THE CREW ABOARD AN F-4D FIGHTER  
(SERIAL NUMBER 66-7630) IN A FLIGHT OF TWO AIRCRAFT ON A NIGHT  
ARMED RECONNAISSANCE MISSION. THEIR AIRCRAFT CRASHED DURING AN  
ORDNANCE DELIVERY RUN IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES  
XE361472, APPROXIMATELY 23 KILOMETERS WEST-SOUTHWEST OF QUANG KHE  
AND 2 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF PHONG NHA, QUANG BINH PROVINCE.  
THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FLIGHT SAW NO PARACHUTES AND HEARD NO  
ELECTRONIC BEACON SIGNALS.

WHILE INVESTIGATING CASES IN LE NINH DISTRICT (APRIL-MAY  
1990), QUANG BINH PROVINCE, DISTRICT OFFICIALS SHOWED THE JOINT  
TEAM A DOCUMENT TITLED "TRADITION RECORD OF THE ARMED FORCES OF  
LE NINH DISTRICT." THE DOCUMENT CONTAINED AN ENTRY WHICH  
REPORTED THAT ON 16 MAY 1968 THE THANH THUY VILLAGE GUERRILLA  
MILITIA SHOT DOWN AN F-105 AIRCRAFT. THIS ENTRY POSSIBLY  
CORRELATES TO CASE 1177 BASED ON SHOOT DOWN DATE AND LOCATION.

PERTINENT DATA ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NAME: *Nick*

RANK: FIRST LIEUTENANT, U.S. AIR FORCE

DATE OF BIRTH: *data*

RACE: CAUCASIAN

HEIGHT: 1.85 METERS

WEIGHT: 85.6 KILOGRAMS

HAIR: BROWN

EYES: HAZEL

NAME: RICKEL, DAVID J.

RANK: CAPTAIN, U.S. AIR FORCE

DATE OF BIRTH: *data*

RACE: CAUCASIAN

HEIGHT: 1.78 METERS

WEIGHT: 77.0 KILOGRAMS

HAIR: BROWN

EYES: BROWN

Passed to officials of the  
Vietnamese government during a  
28 Jul 93 technical meeting



JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING  
CAMP H. M. SMITH, HAWAII 96861-5025

Vụ 1177-

Tờ Tường Thuật

Vào ngày 16 tháng 5 năm 1968, Trung Úy *NAMC* và

Đại Úy David J. Rickel đã là phi hành viên trên chiếc máy bay chiến đấu F-4D (hiệu số 66-7630) trong một phi vụ gồm hai chiếc với nhiệm vụ trinh sát đêm có vũ trang. Chiếc máy bay của họ rơi trong khi đang thả bom ở phạm vi của tọa độ XE361472, khoảng 23 cây số phía Tây - Tây Nam của Quảng Khê và 2 cây số phía Tây Bắc của Phong Nha, tỉnh Quảng Bình. Những phi hành viên khác cùng phi vụ đã không thấy dù hoặc nghe tín hiệu cấp cứu.

Khi điều tra những vụ ở huyện Lệ Ninh (tháng 4-5 năm 1990), tỉnh Quảng Bình, chính quyền huyện đã cho đội hỗn hợp xem một tài liệu nhan đề "Truyền Thống của Quân Đội Huyện Lệ Ninh." Tài liệu có một hàng báo cáo rằng vào ngày 16 tháng 5 năm 1968, du kích xã Thanh Thủy đã bắn rơi một máy bay F-105. Hàng tài liệu này có thể liên quan đến vụ 1177 dựa vào ngày tháng và địa điểm.

Sau đây là những tin tức liên quan:

Tên: *NAMC*

Cấp bậc: Trung úy, Không quân Mỹ

Ngày sinh: *DATA*

Chủng tộc: Da trắng

Cao: 1,85 mét

Nặng: 85,6 kí lô

Passed to officials of the  
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28 Jul 93 technical meeting

- 2 -

Tóc: Nâu

Mắt: Nâu lục

Tên: Rickel, David J.

Cấp bậc: Đại úy, Không quân Mỹ

Ngày sinh: *DATA*

Chủng tộc: Da trắng

Cao: 1,78 mét

Nặng: 77,0 kí lô

Tóc: Nâu

Mắt: Nâu